

FOREWORD

~~The "V" is the assigned computer character which will appear as a flag for illogical/erroneous combinations of ICD-9-CM codes.~~ The coding edit program was developed to assist you in making your hospital's data more accurate for administrative planning, research, legislative analyses, outcome studies, and other uses of OSHPD's patient data.

The coding edits were designed to flag illogical/erroneous ICD-9-CM codes reported in:

the principal diagnosis field only,
the secondary diagnosis field only,
diagnosis field versus diagnosis field,
procedure field versus diagnosis field,
procedure field versus procedure field,
the E-code field only, and
E-code field versus diagnosis field.

The critical coding edits are distinguished as the V edits (not V codes). ~~There were fifty coding edits that were not identified as critical errors due to some exceptions in guidelines or coding scenarios. Historically, these were labeled as inactive coding edits for all discharges on or after January 2000. With improvement to the MIRCal edit program, the inactive coding edits were changed to non-critical coding edits. The non-critical coding edits (or warning edits) are distinguished by the VW flags, instead of the V flags. As with all other non-critical edits, the non-critical coding edits will not cause MIRCal to reject your data. Instead, the non-critical edits are meant to encourage facilities to review the records in question. The non-critical coding edits will be available for all discharges on or after January 2006.~~

The coding edits are sequenced from V0001 to VW999. If a V or VW edit flag appears next to an ICD-9-CM code, refer to the *ICD-9-CM Coding Edit Manual*. The *ICD-9-CM Coding Edit Manual* lists the V edits in numerical order. Each V or VW coding edit has a description, the coding guideline(s), and the references for the coding guideline(s). Written approvals to cite examples and statements were obtained from:

- *Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM*
- *ICD-9-CM Coding Handbook With Answers* by AHA
- *Coding Notes in the Journal of AHIMA*
- *CHIA Coding Modules I and II*
- *Journal of CHIA*

In addition to the references, please refer to the ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, dated December 1, 2005. The document can be downloaded at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/ftp/ftp9/ftp9.htm>

If you choose to follow your hospital's coding policy that is different from the *Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM* guidelines, please inform Ginger Cox, RHIT, CCS, at OSHPD, 818 K Street, #100, Sacramento, CA 95814, E-mail address: gcox@oshpd.ca.gov or FAX to 916-327-1262.